17:Castetter & Underhill N.E-5 (1931-1934) 1935
NU28 Papago NU28

CEREMONIAL OBJECTS AND PRACTICES

The Papagos make a number of rather crude cere- 293
monial objects which ritual demands must be thrown away after each ceremony. Masks are made of half a gourd *(Lagenaria vulgaris)* tied with buckskin thongs and covering only the eyes and nose of the wearer. The face is crudely painted on it with clay, and small perforations made for seeing and breathing. A more valuable mask, kept from year to year, is that belonging to the hereditary clown. It is made of white buckskin, bag shaped, the closed end of which comes at the top of the wearer's head and the open fringed end to his shoulders. A small face is painted on it [336] with blue soot from creosote bush wood *(Covillea glutinosa)*.

The body is often ceremonially marked with clay col- 336
ored yellow with a decoction of dandelion flowers *(Taraxa-* 362
cum officinale).

Fetishes were made on various occasions: for the *vikita* 778
or harvest festival, for the *tc'ĭrkona*, or visiting dance, when 796
a visiting village entertained its hosts before racing with them; and for a ceremony to insure the growth of wild crops. These effigies were usually made to illustrate the content of a dream. For the *vikita* there were hereditary dream singers who every four years produced a new series of songs and ordered the making of some object to illustrate them. There was a standard range of subjects, including clouds, deer, corn, squash, mountains, and sea birds, though an inventive author sometimes provided a new subject like a mythical monster.

Very little material was available for these structures 349
but they showed considerable extempore invention. A 532
framework was made of ocotillo rods *(Fouquieria splendens)* tied together with thongs, and on this could be draped white buckskins to represent clouds, or reddish dyed ones for mountains. The facsimiles were mounted on a wicker frame of sahuaro ribs *(Carnegia gigantea)*. Large white birds were made on a skeleton of ocotillo ribs covered with raw cotton. Squash effigies were contrived from ocotillo

349 and dyed buckskin, corn of ocotillo rods painted with dots,
532 and with soapweed leaves *(Yucca glauca)* attached to represent corn leaves. The same range of subjects was used to illustrate the visiting dance.

The effigies used for the wild crops represented sahuaro and prickly pear fruit *(Opuntia* sp.) and might be of red clay or of red ocotillo blossoms. An effigy mesquite bean was made of a twig (19).

293 Prayer sticks were made of catclaw *(Acacia greggii)*
778 upon which was tied eagle down *(Aquila chrysaetos)*, except for a special harvest ceremony at Quitovac in Sonora where it was "given" the people by Elder Brother to use turkey
[336] feathers *(Meleagris gallopavo merriami)*. Some prayer sticks were colored blue with soot from a fire of creosote bush *(Covillea glutinosa)*, the colored stick representing growing corn, the turkey feather the leaves (19).

Dancers at the harvest ceremony carried wands five feet long with bunches of eagle tail feathers at each end and in the middle. Individuals who had had curing dreams
[532] sometimes made fetishes to represent the animals which had taught them. Thus the horned toad *(Phrynosoma coronatum)* was often carved out of wood.

532 An enemy slayer had made for him an effigy of an Apache, using the hairs he had taken from the slain man's temples. The slayer's guardian if skillful contrived a doll of buckskin dressed in Apache costume and wearing the hair.

783 Tobacco smoke *(Nicotiana trigonophylla* and *N. taba-*
276 *cum)* was regarded by the Papagos as a purifying agent. The medicine man, while singing over a patient to "see" the cause of disease, paused regularly to smoke and blew the smoke over the patient as a means of cleansing.

The man who had come into contact with the supernatural by killing an enemy or an eagle, or by joining the salt pilgrimage, had to be purified by a period of segregation and fasting. When this period was ended, older men who had been through the same experience, sang a series of